



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **MASSACHUSETTS MAN ARRESTED FOR CHILD SEX ABUSE** *Operation Predator arrests surpass 4,300 mark nationally; 150 from New England*

BOSTON—United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents arrested Andrew Banasiewicz, 41, Thursday as part of ICE's Operation Predator initiative, which has resulted in the arrest of more than 4,300 sexual predators nationally since July 2003.

More than 150 New England-area predators have been arrested during this period.

Banasiewicz, a citizen of Poland, was convicted in Wyoming in 1999 of taking indecent liberties with a minor. Under immigration law, Banasiewicz' conviction makes him an aggravated felon eligible for deportation.

Operation Predator's goal is to identify, arrest and detain sex offenders who prey on children, and remove those who are non-citizens to their countries of origin.

"Child predators and sex offenders prey on the weakest and most vulnerable people in our society," said Matthew J. Etre, deputy special agent-in-charge of ICE's New England office. "Operation Predator represents ICE's commitment to identifying and removing predators who are a public safety threat to New England communities."

Operation Predator protects children by investigating and presenting for prosecution pedophiles, Internet predators, human traffickers, international sex tourists and other predatory criminals.

ICE has a toll-free number for the public to provide leads to its enforcement team on any violations, including tips about child pornography, child sex offenders and other preying on children. The toll-free hotline is 1-866-DHS-2ICE. The line is monitored 24 hours a day by officers at the ICE Law Enforcement Support Center. Information about Operation Predator is available at [www.ice.gov](http://www.ice.gov).

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.*